



The Genesis of Forced Labour

- A sketch of slavery from Ancient Egypt to the US Civil War
- The Origins of Polish forced labour in Germany
 - Seasonal workers in Germany were detained and prevented from returning home at the outbreak of the First World War. This was followed by deportation of around 500,000 to factory labour camps in very poor living and working conditions.
- Second World War Data
 - 13mln forced labourers in III Reich alone with 20mln in all the Occupied Territories. This includes 3mln Poles aged 18 to 45.
 - Different status of labourer from "Civilian" to "Forced" and "Slave Labour".
- Historical Context
 - Labour shortage in III Reich war machine
 - The Polish population is treated as a "spoil of war" labour resource
 - By September 1939, there were 300,000 Polish POWs in forced labour
 - Civilian population in annexed Polish lands driven out to work in the Reich
 - In the General Government, the duty to work and unemployment benefit includes an agreement to deportation.
- Recruitment Methods
 - Originally recruitment was on a voluntary basis and despite the propaganda campaign, only 5% of working Poles signed up
 - Forced deportations follow with press-gangs, local contingent lists and incidences of mass deportation in the Zamość region 1942-43 and following the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.
- Presentation of known contemporary companies employing forced labour (Haribo, Dr. Oetker)
- Presentation of dramatic work and living conditions
- Stigmatisation of Poles with letter "P" badges from 1940
- Forced labourers gather information that is passed on to the resistance movement

- Repatriation
Three-year Polish Occupied Zone at "Maczków"/Elmsland
- Forced Labour Today
Approx. 21min in forced labour today, mainly in Africa engaged in coffee, carpets and clothes production. Characteristics include a lack of free movement, very low or 0 pay and exploitation.

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Polish Forced labour
in Germany during
the Second World War

Katarzyna Woniak

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